

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1078
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MR, KU, EAID
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH VISITS KUWAIT: KUWAIT FUND
INTEREST IN MAURITANIA

1. MAURITANIAN PRES. OULD DADDAH MADE A STATE VISIT TO KUWAIT MAY 8-10. THE AGENDA FOR BILATERAL TALKS INCLUDED KUWAITI ECONOMIC HELP FOR MAURITANIA, ARAB UNITY AND THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE WESTERN SAHARA TERRITORIAL DISPUTE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. AT THE END OF THE VISIT THERE WAS A BOILERPLATE COMMUNIQUE ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS, THOUGH IT DID INDICATE THAT THERE WOULD BE FUTURE TALKS ON KUWAITI ASSISTANCE FOR NEW MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE KUWAITI MINISTER FOR AMIRI DIWAN AFFAIRS TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE TALKS WERE VERY CORDIAL AND THAT KUWAITI "NEUTRALITY" ON THE WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE WAS MAINTAINED. UNIDENTIFIED GOK SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE GOK (KUWAIT FUND) IS STUDYING MAURITANIAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE REQUESTS.

2. OULD DADDAH'S VISIT WAS LITTLE PUBLICIZED, HAVING
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BEEN PUSHED OFF THE FRONT PAGE BY OPEC, OAPEC AND ITALIAN TERRORISM. UNDOUBTEDLY AT SOME POINT DURING THE VISIT KUWAIT AID TO MAURITANIA WAS DISCUSSED. DR. MUHAMMAD AL-KHOJA, OFFICIAL AT KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR MAURITANIAN PROJECTS, TOLD ECON CHIEF FUND ACTIVITY REGARDING MAURITANIA PRESENTLY FOCUSSED ON FOLLOWING THREE PROJECTS: 1) GUELBS IRON ORE PROJECT:

PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED AND FUND IS WORKING WITH OTHER DONORS ON ORGANIZATION AND START UP OF PROJECT; 2) FISHERIES: U.K. GOVERNMENT FISHERIES AUTHORITY IS PREPARING FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR FUND ON POSSIBLE FISHERIES PROJECTS IN MAURITANIA; 3) KIFFA - NEMA ROAD: KUWAIT FUND PARTICIPATED, ALONG WITH OTHER DONORS, IN CONSTRUCTION OF NOUAKCHOTT - KIFFA ROAD AND WILL PARTICIPATE WITH THESE DONORS (INCLUDING ECC, SAUDI FUND, ABU DHABI FUND, ETC.) IN FINANCING KIFFA - NEMA ROAD. AL-KHOJA ADDED THAT KUWAIT FUND HAS COMMITTED \$75 MILLION TO OVERALL MASTER PLAN ACTIVITY OF ORGANIZATION FOR SENEGAL RIVER VALLEY (OMVS), WHICH INCLUDES LARGE, JOINT MALI-MAURITANIA-SENEGAL MANANTALI DAM PROJECT. SUTHERLAND

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